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(54) Title: IDENTIFICATION OF VIRULENCE ASSOCIATED REGIONS RD1 AND RD5 LEADING TO IMPROVE VACCINE OF *M. BOVIS* BCG AND *M. MICROTI*

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a strain of *M. bovis* BCG or *M. microti*, wherein said strain has integrated part or all of the RD1 region responsible for enhanced immunogenicity of the tubercle bacilli, especially the ESAT-6 and CFP-10 genes. These strains will be referred as the *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strains and are useful as a new improved vaccine for preventing tuberculosis and as a therapeutical product enhancing the stimulation of the immune system for the treatment of bladder cancer. These strains are also useful for the expression and presentation of heterologous antigens and molecule that are of therapeutic or prophylactic interest.

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